

TIM BURCHETT

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Senate Chamber

State of Tennessee

NASHVILLE

VICE-CHAIRMAN

GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

MEMBER OF COMMITTEES

FINANCE, WAYS AND MEANS
STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

December 19, 2006

Chairman Kevin Martin
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Room #8B-201
Washington, DC 20554

RE: Free Wireless Broadband Access

Mr. Chairman:

The United States is known for being a world leader, one that other countries turn to in times of crisis and the remainder of the time, look up to us with admiration. We have the strongest economy in the world and one of the longest running democracies. Our citizens are afforded basic standards of living that many people can only dream about. There are many reasons why we hold this revered title, but you have to wonder how long it will last.

Currently our rate of broadband internet penetration falls just behind Estonia, which ranks 20th. Given the importance of the internet, whether it is providing an avenue for civic discourse or for easier shopping, we must act now. If we do not step up and move in the right direction (a move toward greater broadband penetration), the lag we are currently experiencing will only worsen.

I believe your committee is considering a proposal to offer free broadband internet to all Americans. This could be the key to getting America back on track. Sir, our country is at a crossroads and you have the power to decide what route we will take. Your careful consideration on this matter is extremely important. Many nations are ahead of us and we do not want to get any further behind, so I ask you and your

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committee to approve the proposed use of spectrum for free nationwide broadband internet access. We need this.

Sincerely,



Tim Burchett
State Senator

CC: FCC Commissioners: Copps, Adelstein, Tate, McDowell
FCC Secretary Marlene Dortch
Kathy Seidel, Acting Chief, Wireless Bureau
Senator Frist
Senator Alexander